Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method in a switch for buffering data received through a source port before transmitting the data through a destination port, the method comprising:

receiving a first frame of data through the source port;

storing the received first frame of data;

receiving a second frame of data through the source port;

storing the received second frame of data;

selecting either the first frame or the second frame for transmitting through the

destination port based on a priority score of the first frame and the second

frame, and the length of time that the first frame and the second frame

have been stored.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second frames are stored in a buffer that is used to frames received only through the source port.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first frame is stored in a first buffer and the second frame is stored in a second buffer and all frames of a connection are stored in the same buffer.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is an interconnect fabric module.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is Fibre Channel compatible.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is InfiniBand compatible.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and wherein the second frame is selected.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame.

12.   (Currently Amended) A routing device comprising:
a first buffer for storing a first frame received through a source port;
a second buffer for storing a second frame received through the source port; and
a component that selects either the first frame or the second frame for
        transmitting through a destination port based on a priority score of the first
        frame and the second frame, and the length of time that the first frame and
        the second frame have been stored.

13.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein each source port of the routing device has a first and second buffer and a component that selects.

14.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the first and second buffer are used to store frames received only through the source port.

15.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.

16.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.

17.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

18.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein all frames of a connection are stored in the same buffer.

19.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is an interconnect fabric module.

20.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

21.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

22.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and the second frame is selected.

23.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame.

24.   (Original) The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is a switch.

25.   (Currently Amended) A routing device comprising:
means for storing a first frame received at the routing device;
means for storing a second frame received at the routing device; and

means for selecting either the first frame or the second frame for transmitting

based on a priority score of the first frame and the second frame, and the

length of time that the first frame and the second frame have been stored.

26.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein each source port of the routing device has a means for storing and a means for selecting.

27.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the means for storing are used to store frames received through only one source port.

28.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.

29.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.

30.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

31.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein all frames of a connection are stored by the same means for storing.

32.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is an interconnect fabric module.

33.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

34.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

35.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and the second frame is selected by the means for selecting.

36.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame by the means for selecting.

37.   (Original) The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is a switch.